

# On Call Inside the Blue

A community news publication of the Arlington, Texas Police

## Awards Ceremony Celebrates Service and Success



A tradition that salutes the very best in public service returned Feb. 24. The Arlington Police Department Awards Ceremony at the Arlington Convention Center was sponsored by the Arlington Police Foundation, the John V. and Jeri McMillan Memorial Fund along with contributions from many local restaurants and businesses.

Awards were presented to those whose exemplary service contributed to the overall success of the Arlington Police Department in 2015. Two community awards were presented.

The 2015 Citizens Community Award was presented to the Church on Rush Creek for the impact this congregation of 5,000 is making in the city. This church sponsors a job fair, operates a food pantry which serves over 2,600 and helps to sponsor fun, safe events for youth and families.

"This award was a surprise for us," said Compassion Pastor Brian McFadden who accepted the award. "The entire city works so well together. We're all working toward the same goal, which is a better community for us all to live in."

The Business Partnership Award was presented to the Women's Center of Tarrant County whose mission is to inspire, teach and empower women and families to overcome violence, crisis and poverty. Accepting the award was Laura Hilgart, president and CEO of the Women's Center and Deborah Caddy who serves as director of Rape Crisis and Victim Services.

This year's emcee was Fox 4 News Anchor Steve Eager. Close to 650 were in attendance.

The ceremony also featured the award-winning APD Honor Guard and singing of the National Anthem by Officer Peter Hughes.

In a special report during the ceremony, Police Chief Will Johnson presented some of the department's most notable accomplishments from 2015. Coming next month in *On Call*, more Award Ceremony highlights.



## Community Highlights From Not In Our Town

From the auditorium, there was audience participation in many forms. Some wrote questions on cards while others took notes as part of a class assignment. Some turned to Twitter and used the hash tag #NotInOurTown to engage panel members.

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Feb. 11, close to 120 people filed into UTA's Lone Star Auditorium for the first in a series of community discussions hosted by the Arlington Police Department. The audience watched "Waking in Oak Creek" which was followed by dialogue about hate. Dr. Jaya Davis of the UT Arlington Criminology and Criminal Justice Department was the event moderator.

"Waking In Oak Creek" is the true story of a community in Oak Creek, Wisconsin who finds inspiration after lives are shattered by a hate crime when six Sikh Americans are killed during a religious gathering in 2002.

UTA Graduate Student Vanessa Johnson who is studying crime and religion this semester, said the topic was of great interest to her.

"I was mostly impressed that so many important people from my community thought it was important enough to have a discussion on this topic," she said. "They came

out and sat down with us and they made us more aware. This can happen anywhere."



Audience participation at event.

Panel members included Police Chief Will Johnson, Alisa Simmons, president of the Arlington branch of the NAACP; Luis Castillo, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Other panelists included Mujahid Bakash of the North Texas Islamic Coalition and Murjan Altaweel, president of the Darelean Islamic Center.

After the event, Chief Johnson said the community dialogue must continue. This is the first of several being planned this year.

Not In Our Town is part of a national movement to stop hate and build safe, inclusive communities. It is being led by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Civil Rights Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

## Get Ready ... Back The Blue Bash Returns Friday, March 4



The Back the Blue Bash is sponsored by the Arlington Police Foundation and raises big fun and funding support for the Arlington Police Department.

LAST CHANCE FOR TICKETS. Click [here](#).

For information, call 817-459-6424.

Silent auction, live musical entertainment with a special tribute to all 50 Arlington Police Academy Classes! Click [here](#).

# On Call NORTH DISTRICT

## YOUTH CORNER

### NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

Social Media is great! But it's bad when used the wrong way. Click [here](#) to watch "Keeping Social Media Real ..." There's a version for Arlington parents and youth.

The Arlington Alliance for Youth will award one \$500 scholarship to a high school senior whose service to the community has made a positive impact. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Jerry Cooper Service Learning Scholarship.



Serving and helping others. **Global Youth Service Day** on April 16 is the largest youth service movement in the world. Get involved. Click [here](#).

## Hotel and Hospitality Industry Puts Focus on Tourism Safety

The Hotel Association of Tarrant County hosted its monthly luncheon at the Hilton Hotel in the North Police District.

They invited the Arlington Police Department to share public safety information that will keep their staff and patrons safe.

This group has been an active part of the hospitality industry for more than 75 years. They are advocates for their members. In Tarrant County, tourism is big business. It estimated that hotels and other tourism businesses in Arlington



employ over 65,000 residents.

As a presenter, I reminded hotel managers, business owners and staff about the importance of always securing valuables and reminding everyone to "Take, Lock and Hide."

I encouraged them to make sure their video surveillance is operational and that staff members are well trained on how to use it. I also reminded everyone about the importance of keeping their properties well lit at night and landscaping maintained. There was an opportunity to answer questions and network with new members.

A special thanks to the Hotel Association of Tarrant County for making the safety of its members and patrons a priority and for making the Arlington Police Department a partner in those efforts.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the North Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or [Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call SOUTH DISTRICT

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION HIGHLIGHT

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Forty-nine residents are now enrolled in Arlington Citizens Police Academy Class #26.

This is one of the largest classes in recent history!

### SAVE THE DATE

Space is filling up for the Citizens Police Academy Two-Day Class:

**April 25 and 26!**

For enrollment information, click [here](#) or call 817-459-6468.

## Books Bring Joy and Excitement to Children's Lives

The Arlington Police Department was a proud participant in an African American Read-In program hosted at the McDonald's restaurant located at 5404 S. Cooper St.

There was a great turnout for this community event. Families filled the play area of the restaurant with excitement. The children had the opportunity to hear from civic leaders about how their love of reading has shaped their lives, which has helped them make a



positive impact on the community they serve.

This program highlighted African American History Month and allowed guests to read children's books written by African American authors. We enjoyed great stories of inspiration and triumph.

It was an amazing experience to see the joy and excitement a book can bring to a child's life.

At the conclusion of this Read-In program, all children were given a McDonald's backpack filled with school supplies, a complimentary happy meal and a brand new book.

Thank you for allowing your Arlington Police Department to participate. Happy Reading!



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the South Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Timothy Hayden at 817-459-6468 or [Timothy.Hayden@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Timothy.Hayden@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call EAST DISTRICT

## Community Gathers to Celebrate Culture and Heritage

The Hugh Smith Senior Recreation Center was the location for an event that brought various different cultures together under one roof.

Arlington is home to more than 360,000 people and this Multicultural Celebration on Feb. 5 helped to highlight a few of the cultures in our city. There was food, music, dancing and fashion. There were performances from the Buda Temple Tu Dam Asian Dragon Dance Group, the Folklore Dance Team at Thornton Elementary and praise dancers from Destiny Pointe Church.



The audience enjoyed traditional performances from Uganda and Mexico along with African drums and country western music and tango partner dancing. The community welcomed a special classical musical performance from Lillie Madison, who was also representing the Ms. Texas Senior America Pageant.

This event collected nonperishable food items to be donated to a soup kitchen to serve families in need.

A special thanks to all the performers who shared a piece of their culture by donating their time and talent and making this Multicultural Celebration a big success in the East Police District. And thanks to the Hugh Smith Recreation Center for inviting us into your location. Events like this not only bring us together as a community, but teach us about our world.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Unidos is Tuesday, March 8 at Café Church, 2200 E. Park Row Drive.



Every month, watch for a new crime prevention highlight from the East Police District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalia Aumedes at 817-459-5817 or [Natalia.Aumedes@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Natalia.Aumedes@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call WEST DISTRICT

## Everyone's a Winner on this Court at Ditto Elementary

Officers from the West Police District teamed up with the Fire Department for a great game of basketball at Ditto Elementary School.

The score went back and forth with neither team able to open up a commanding lead. Even when the Police and Fire Team inserted their secret weapon, West District Officer Tim James, a former NBA First Round Draft Pick, we were still

unable to pull ahead of the competition.

As the time wound down, this game was tied. Then our referee, Lt. Russ Greene, announced a tie breaker and the next basket would win the game.

The Police and Fire Team started off with the ball but as they were coming across half court, it was stolen. A sixth grader was able to drive the lane and get a shot off which bounced from the rim and back board before falling through the net and giving Ditto Elementary the win.

With that basket, the gym erupted in cheers and students charged onto the floor to celebrate the win.

This game was a win for all the players. What a great way to reach out to our youth and interact with them in a positive way on the court. We're already preparing for the re-match.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight each month from the West Police District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfely at 817-459-6072 or [Doug.Glotfely@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Doug.Glotfely@Arlingtontx.gov).

## LIFE SAVING AWARD 2016

# Officer Rescues Woman, Answers Most Rewarding Call of His Career

The phone lines were lighting up in the Arlington 9-1-1 Dispatch Center. On a cold December morning, callers were reporting a woman on a bridge.

According to police reports, it was approximately 2 a.m. and the woman on the overpass was close to the edge.

Officer Ryan Garman was on midnight patrol in the South Police District and the first on the scene.

"As I began to talk with her, I was able to confirm immediately that "this was a serious matter," he said

Officer Garman was careful not to startle the woman as she inched backward to the edge.

"We were able to communicate with one another and I could see she was visibly shaken and upset," he recalls.

"I focused on trying to get her away from the edge without causing harm to myself. I got lucky. Focus paid off."

The woman surrendered and was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Later that day, she thanked officers for the intervention.

At an Arlington Police Department Manager Meeting on Feb. 11, Police Chief Will Johnson presented Officer Garman with the Life Saving Award for his quick and decisive actions on the overpass. The announcement was met by applause and a standing ovation.



Chief Will Johnson and Officer Garman



In his many years of service with the department, Officer Garman said this call has been the most rewarding of his policing career.

"I was in the right place at the right time," he said. "I believe I was put on that bridge for that purpose."

*"I believe I was put on that bridge for that purpose."*

Officer Ryan Garman  
Arlington Police Officer since 2007

## THE OATH TO SERVE

This month, police officers across the city are raising their right hand and taking the Oath of Office.

For civilian staff members, it's a time to renew commitments to workplace code of ethics.

Police Chief Will Johnson said, "we are all reminded that our oath is a solemn promise we take to protect, defend and serve."

"It is our spoken commitment to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the commitments we have made to our department's mission and values."



*"I do solemnly swear ..."*

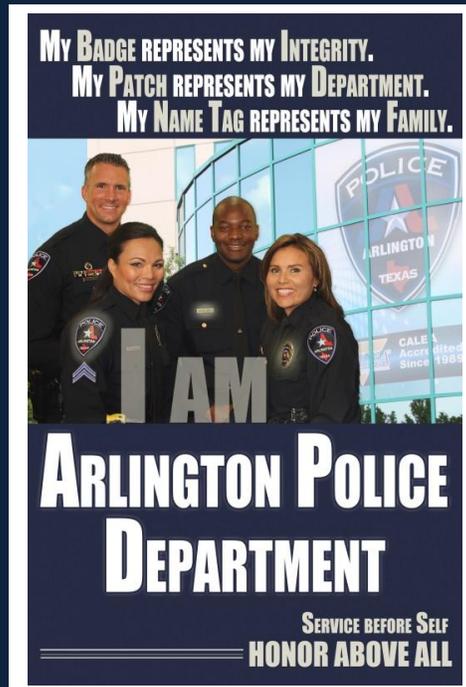
## INSIDE APD: NEW MISSION AND VALUES

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Arlington Police Department has always been guided by a mission and a set of strategic goals and values. This year, the department is launching a multi-year plan to guide organizational success into the next five years. A new vision statement is part of the plan.

The process of developing the new vision statement involved a series of focus group meetings along with creative input from a cross section of Arlington Police Department employees.

The focus group selected: "Service Before Self, Honor Above All," as the statement that best represents the department's mission and vision. Integrity, compassion and fairness were selected as values of great importance to the mission.

Looking for more ways to get involved with your police department? There are many opportunities. Follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook, connect with us on the web at [www.ArlingtonPD.org](http://www.ArlingtonPD.org).



The "I AM Arlington PD" poster campaign is being used to help launch the department's new Vision Statement: "Service Before Self, Honor Above All."



Did you know? APD has about 200 civilian police employees. This "I Am" poster features staff from the Quartermaster's Office, Crime Scene Unit, Community Support Division, Property Room and West Police District Administration.

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Send story ideas and comments to:

817-459-5384 or [Cheryl.Carpenter@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Carpenter@Arlingtontx.gov)

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